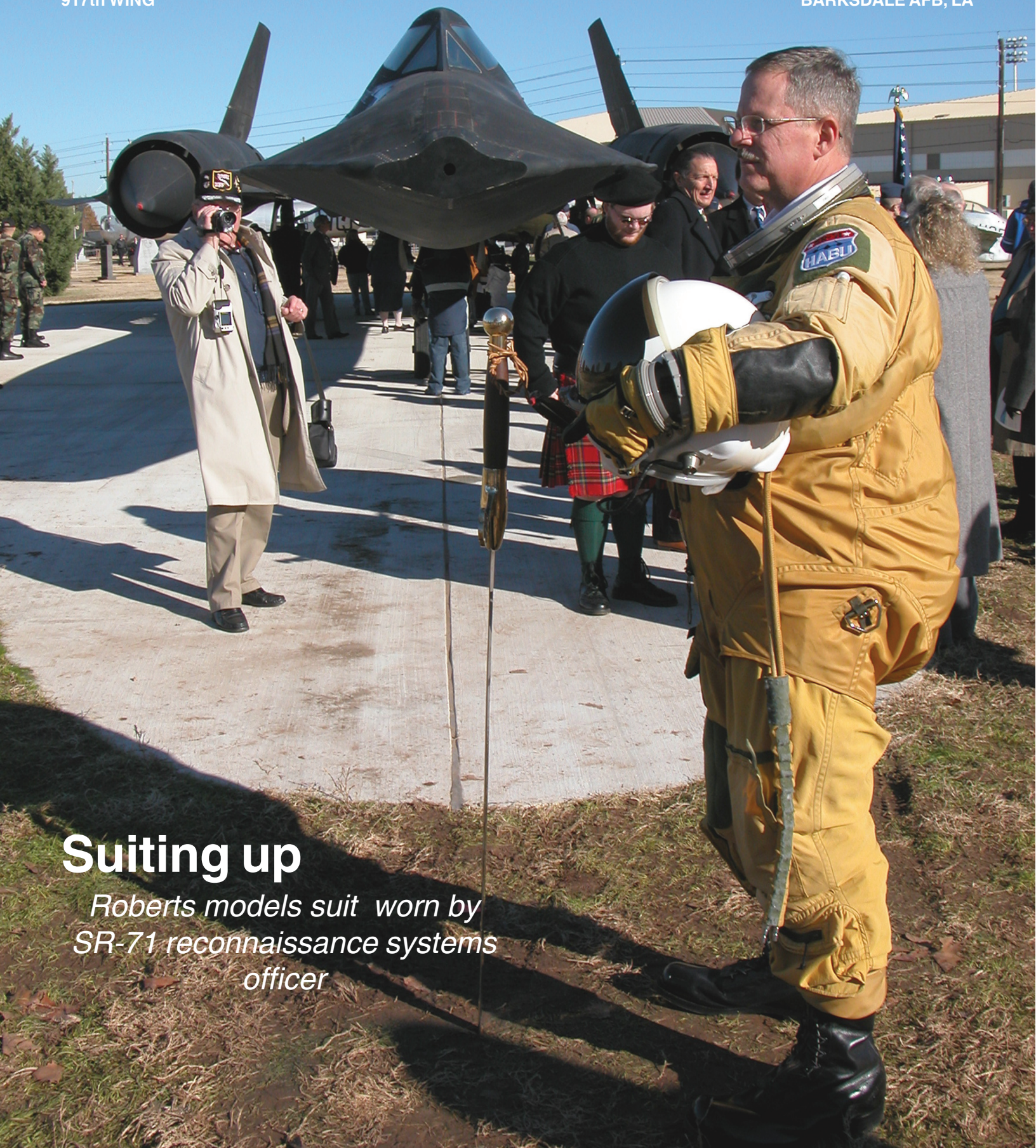


Gator Gazette

917th WING

BARKSDALE AFB, LA



Suiting up

*Roberts models suit worn by
SR-71 reconnaissance systems
officer*

Gator Gazette

January 2004
Vol. 11, No. 1

917th Wing Public Affairs
1000 Davis Ave. E.
Bldg. 6803, Rm. 212
Barksdale AFB, La., 71110

Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle
Commander

Jessica D'Aurizio
Chief, Public Affairs

2nd Lt. Torri White
Public Affairs Officer

Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant
Editor

Betty Stephens
Public Affairs Assistant

Master Sgt. Greg Steele
Tech. Sgt. Ruben Delgado
Senior Airman Ebony Nichols
Staff Writers

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of U.S. military services. Contents of the Gator Gazette are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 917th Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. **UTA Sunday at noon is the deadline for submitting articles** to Public Affairs for publication in the following month's issue of the Gator Gazette. Inputs for the Gator Gazette can also be made by e-mail to 917wg.pa@barksdale.af.mil
Office hours: Monday through Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., and UTAs 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Office Phone: (318) 456-9181 Fax: (318) 456-7444.

Cover: Master Sgt. Dave Roberts, chief of 917th Wing Education and Training, models a suit like one worn by an aircrew member of the SR-71. A ceremony was held Dec. 17 at the 8th Air Force museum to dedicate its new SR-71 and celebrate the 100-year anniversary of powered flight. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio)

Being prepared pays off

It has been almost six months since I took command of the Maintenance Group, and I have been having a ball. Moving from the 911th in Pittsburgh to Barksdale and learning two new weapons systems has its challenges. I have been welcomed and assisted in learning the ropes, and I thank everyone who made my transition so smooth.



Lt. Col. Harry Chrisman
917th Maintenance Group Commander

The Wing is preparing for an Operational Readiness Inspection in 13 months. This is our report card to show how prepared we are to go into combat. But you say, "We've been there...done that, even got the tee shirt!" You don't have to convince me. I know we are perfectly capable of responding to any tasking the country needs us to do. But there are certain standards the Air Force looks for its units to attain, and these are measured in an ORI.

We have 26 unit training assembly days to get ready. Between now and early 2005, almost every UTA will have an ORI theme. We will need to work hard to meet our goal of "outstanding."

Do you have all of your equipment? Do you know how to properly don your protective gear? Are you familiar with self-aid/buddy care? Have you updated your record of emergency data? Many questions like these will be addressed in the coming months.

I recently received an e-mail that named the Wing as winner of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, a true indication of the professionalism and dedication we are known for. I'm proud to be part of one of the finest organizations in the Air Force and am confident we will get that "outstanding" during the ORI.

God's power keeps us going...through it all!

A man was driving to work one morning when a car pulled up and bumped his car in the rear – softly. Thinking there should be no damage, he looked into his mirror and saw the man in the car behind him smile and wave apologetically. The same thing happened two blocks farther down the road. But this time, the first driver got out and went to the rear of his car. He observed that there was no damage. The fellow in the rear car stuck his head out of the window and said, "Whoops, sorry about that!" The first driver responded by saying, "Can you tell me one thing? How do you stop when I'm not here?"

Although bumping into someone is not a good way to stop your car, it does show that we are all dependent upon others to help us get through life. Maybe we should ask, "How do you keep going when I'm not here?"

Without God's help, we cannot continue. The disciples felt this way following Christ's crucifixion. It is how those in combat must feel when things aren't going good or morale is low.

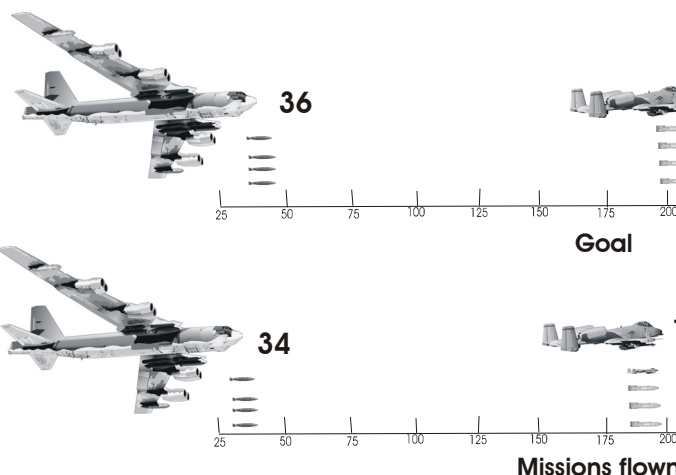
Then the supreme commander appears and with his presence, troops are revived and find strength to press on to the task ahead. It is always reassuring to hear words like those Christ spoke to his disciples when he said "Lo I am with you always."

May God's love and happiness guide you all in this new year.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Don Eubanks
Wing Chaplains Office

917th Wing Sortie Scoreboard November 2003



A-10 Mission Capable Rate 83.1% AFRC
B-52 Mission Capable Rate 80% AFRC



MOPP

knowing what to wear for what occasion



Available for immediate donning
individual protective equipment

Carried
protective mask with C2 canister or filter elements and hood installed, field gear worn when directed

Primary use
pre-attack
during periods of increased alert when enemy has a nuclear, biological or chemical offensive capability

when there is no indication of NBC use in immediate future



Worn
overgarment and field gear

Carried
overboots, protective mask and gloves

Primary use
pre-attack
during periods of increased alert when an NBC attack could occur with little or no warning
when NBC contamination is present or suspected and higher levels of protection are not required



Worn
overgarment, overboots and field gear

Carried
protective mask and gloves

Primary use
pre-attack or post-attack
during periods of increased alert when an NBC attack could occur with little or no warning
when NBC contamination is present or suspected and higher levels of protection are not required



Worn
overgarment, protective mask, hood, overboots and field gear

Carried
gloves

Primary use
pre-attack or post-attack
during periods of increased alert when an NBC attack could occur with little or no warning
when NBC contamination is present or suspected and higher levels of protection are not required



Worn
overgarment, protective mask, hood, gloves, overboots and field gear

Carried

Primary use
post-attack
when an NBC attack is imminent or in progress
when NBC contamination is present or suspected and highest level of protection is required

Useful reference information on the upcoming ORI can be found on the W drive/ORI prep.



Chief Master Sgt. Larry Sheppelman, 917th Maintenance Squadron superintendent, and Master Sgts. Rob Ahbol, 917th Mission Support Group work group manager, Sam Hinkle, 917 MXS munitions systems mechanic (promoted since time of photo), display the trophy they received after winning the Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award in 2000. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio)

“So long and thanks”

Maintenance superintendent retires after many years of service

**By Tech. Sgt. Ruben Delgado
Wing Public Affairs**

Over 40 years ago Chief Master Sgt. Larry Sheppelman, began his career in the military. Now retirement time has arrived and he leaves behind his military career that has taken him all the way to Superintendent of the 917th Maintenance Squadron.

As a young man growing up on a farm he learned his work ethics through a lot of hard work and long hours working that farm. In his case those ethics learned early in life paid off big time.

“I wanted off the farm and was tired of picking cotton,” Sheppelman said. “I had always wanted to explore the world. I was looking for something challenging and rewarding and found it as an aircraft mechanic.” He found that challenge working on the KC-135A and his dream came true of seeing the world away from the farm.

After eight years as an engine mechanic on active duty, Sheppelman decided to work locally in the Shreveport area at Royale Airlines. He worked there as an aircraft and power-plant mechanic maintaining the DC-3 and Beech 99 aircraft.

Sheppelman joined the 917th Consoli-

dated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in 1973 as a phase mechanic working on the A-37B aircraft. He moved up to a crew chief position by 1980, eventually working his way up to a working supervisor. In 1987, he assumed the Maintenance superintendent position from where he is now retiring.

“I have been blessed with a great career and being a part of two great units, the 917th Wing and the 98th Air Refueling Group,” Sheppelman said. “He was the first and only superintendent in the 98 ARG with the KC-10s and are remembered by him as some of the best times and most challenging of my career.

“One of the greatest memories was winning the Chief of Staff Award for the Self-Inspection Tracking System and the Smart Pay

Tracking System,” he said. “Being on stage in Washington D.C., receiving the awards for two consecutive years will be with me forever as will be the mobilization of 125 MXS personnel to support Operation Enduring Freedom.”

“The icing on the cake for me was when I volunteered to send our phase personnel to Guam and take over...and give active duty a break for the holidays. It is a true testimony that Total Force works when given a chance.”

When asked if he had a key to his success he said, work hard, set your goals high, have a positive attitude, learn your job to the point of perfection, and complete all career development courses as soon as possible and Professional Military Education requirements without delay. Lay out the road map for your future early in your career and great things will happen.



Clint Cates, a chief master sergeant in the 917 MXS Munitions Flight, suits Sheppelman up for his career after the Air Force Reserve. Insert: Sheppelman in uniform. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant)



Early detection is key

What every woman should know about mammography and PAP tests

**By Capt. Tammy Norwood
917th Medical Squadron**

It seems during every unit training assembly, a female reservist asks, “Why do I have to get a mammogram and a Pap smear?” Being a middle-aged female, I thought I would do a little research to help answer this question instead of saying “AFI 48-123 says so.”

Although most women know that mammography is an important tool for detecting breast cancer, they’ve probably heard a lot of controversy about it – questions about its accuracy, the best age to start testing, and the best time-interval between tests. Regardless, regular mammography is still the best tool for early detection of breast cancer.

On average, mammography can detect a breast tumor more than two years before it can be felt. More than 90 percent of women with breast cancer can be cured if the tumor is treated early. It’s estimated that a combination of monthly breast self-exams and yearly mammography could save the lives of 15,000 U.S. women annually. Most women should have their first mammogram at age 40, and until age 50 they should undergo the test every year or two. After age 50, they should have mammograms every year.

If a woman is at high risk for breast cancer, her doctor may suggest that she start having regular mammograms before age 40. Dr. Paula E. Rambert, a gynecologist, states “In treating breast cancer, it is

a well-known fact that early detection and treatment provide the best possible cancer survival. Breast mammograms are very important because they can detect any breast abnormalities long before a patient or physician can actually palpate an abnormality.”

The PAP test detects changes in the cervix that could be a sign of cancer or precancer (changes that could lead to cancer). It is a screening test that detects possible signs of disease in women who do not have symptoms such as bleeding, pelvic pain or discharge. The test has been very successful in decreasing deaths from cervical cancer, because the precancer cells are right on the surface of the cervix and it picks them up before cancer grows. If abnormal cells are found, they often can be treated with simple procedures in a doctor’s office.

“Annual Pap smears are important so that any cervical abnormalities can be detected as early as possible,” Rambert said. “Cervical dysplasia and cancer are very treatable conditions, but are not diagnosed unless women have this non-invasive test performed.”

(Information for this article was obtained from: “What You Should Know About Mammography: The Female Patient” by Patricia Van Horn; Women’s Day magazine, Sept. 18, 2001 edition; Health and Fitness magazine, Sept. 13, 2002 edition; and Dr. Paula E. Rambert, OBGYN)

Give me five!

**By Tech. Sgt. Byron Hardy
917th Medical Squadron**

It is difficult for most people to get the five servings of fruits and vegetables required per day.

As a health professional, I should have that down pat, right? After all, it is one of the commandments of a healthy lifestyle: Thou shalt eat five servings of fruits and vegetables per day. It’s right after the first commandment: Thou shalt exercise at least three times per week but no more than six and for at least 30 minutes but preferably 60.

The five serving a day rule is beginning to turn into my mission in life. Sometimes I feel like a junkie trying to get his fix sneaking out of a meeting to pop a few baby carrots. After all, it’s halfway through the day, and I’ve only had a banana.

The icing on the cake happened the other night while getting ready for bed. The realization hit home that I didn’t eat a vegetable for supper. I got out of bed and went to the fridge, looking for a quick fix. What I needed was an easier way to assure my getting the five veggie groups.

The plan is, every Sunday evening to sit down and write down the meals for the upcoming week, making sure to include that elusive five a day. It also helps to choose healthier meals, like commandment number three: Eat more fish.

This is not a new revelation. Diet experts have been preaching for years to write meals down. It is called a food diary. Believe it or not, it really works. It is one of the most important things you will do while trying to lose weight or eat healthier. When you can see on paper the things you are eating or not eating, you will begin to see the picture.

It really takes a major effort to live a healthy lifestyle, but the payoff is amazing.



To learn more about breast cancer prevention:
breastcancerprevention.com

2003...a

By Tech. Sgt. [Name]
Wing Pub

*The year 2003 was a very fast-p
tinuing to support the global war
were tasked all around the globe as
For example:*

*Reservists visi
In June seven me
Washington, D.C.
Reserve gets its v*



Chief keeps 'em happy

The Wing's very own Command Chief Master Sgt. Jack Skaggs deployed to Iraq to fill the position of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group command chief. With very early mornings and very late nights, Skaggs kept up the morale of the troops. He assisted in any way he could and, as always, his help was greatly appreciated. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charlein Sheets)

How about a 500-mile bicycle ride?

Three members from the Wing and two from 2nd Bomb Wing rode bicycles a distance of over 500 miles through the state of Iowa while recruiting for the Air Force. Team 'Aim High' was among over 10,000 cyclists who turned out for this annual event. The ride consisted of seven tour legs in increments of 50 to 100 miles each. Riders slept in tents along the way and endured the weather.



Kids go to camp military style

The Wing successfully completed for children of Wing members c children experienced a summer that included building rockets, skating, hiking and numerous oth Be sure to sign up your children ne Ruben Delgado)



Litening strikes at the 93 BS

The 93rd Bomb Squadron made history by outfitting their B-52s with the Litening II Pod self-designating laser guided bombs. By doing so, it made them the very first heavy bomber unit to utilize this system. (Photo by Master Sgt. Greg Steele)

year in review

Ruben Delgado
Public Affairs

paced year for the Wing. While con-
on terrorism, members of the Wing
s well as here on the homefront.

t the Pentagon

members of the 917th got to visit the Pentagon in
to learn and see firsthand how the Air Force
voice heard on Capitol Hill.



Wing loses...

Cols. Bruce
Kintner and
Richard
Schmidt,
Chief Master
Sgts.
Larry
Brock,
Larry
Sheppelman
and Bill
Morgan...
among
others

Pickin' up the pieces

Six 917th Explosive Ordnance Disposal members spent four days assisting law enforcement in the Lufkin, Texas area in looking for debris from the Columbia Space Shuttle disaster. They helped to identify explosive items, render them safe, and prepare them for disposal. (Courtesy photo)

Vietnam Wall comes to town

If you have never seen the Vietnam Wall in Washington D.C., this was a chance to see a smaller version of the wall here in Bossier City. Brig. Gen. Jack Ihle, 917th Wing commander, gave the opening speech as one of our B-52s flew over. Even with the wall being a smaller replica, it was still breathtaking to see all the names of America's fallen heroes.



Off to bomb Saddam

Members of the 93rd Bomb Squadron and 917th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron were called to active duty once again in Spring 2003, this time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This would mark the third deployment for many over the last two years, for some the first. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Sherri Savant)

d its very first summer camp
called Camp Gator. Over 30
camp they will never forget
swimming, canoeing, roller
her team-building activities.
next year. (Photo by Tech. Sgt.

od times at Gatorfest
though listening to the
oggy Bottom Boys" will
ever be the same ever again,
was had by all at this years
orfest. If you haven't been
a Gatorfest yet, you should
e it a chance.

AFPC password reset made easy

More than 500 people forget their passwords to the Air Force Personnel Center's customer service Web applications every day. Passwords can be reset online within seconds with member's social security number and mother's maiden name. The system is case sensitive. First-time users need basic personal information including civilian service computation date, or pay date for military. Common access card users can create an account using the security "certificates" on the card and the card reader.

To access Virtual Military Personnel Flight or other online personnel resources, visit <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>.

Demobilized reservists get uncharged leave

Five days of uncharged civilian leave has been directed by the president for federal employees returning from Guard and Reserve duty in the war on terrorism. This memorandum covers all employees activated for military service in connection with Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Leave (annotated as "LV" on time sheet) must be taken all at once and be tracked by supervisors and commanders.

Recycle your beads

Donate your Mardi Gras beads from last year to a worthy cause. Beads are needed for participants to throw from the float holding the Dixie Express Reserve Band who will perform during this year's Krewe of Gemini parade Feb. 21. Please bring all donations to Bldg. 6803, Rm. 212.

myPay offers electronic W-2s

Effective Sept. 17, 2003, all current myPay active/reserve military users and Defense Finance and Accounting Service civilian employees who request or already have a myPay personal identification number and access myPay are consenting to receive only an electronic W-2. They may, however, elect to receive a hardcopy W-2. All other Department of Defense civilian employees who use myPay may elect to receive an electronic W-2 in lieu of a hardcopy W-2 through the myPay system.

To ensure that customers receive an electronic or hardcopy W-2, there will be a "no change" period that will run from Dec. 1

through Jan. 31 of each tax season. During this period, you will not be allowed to change your W-2 print election on myPay, but may request a paper W-2 by contacting your local servicing finance activity. Visit the myPay Web site: <https://mypay.dfas.mil/w2information.htm> for more information.

Clean teeth and prove it

Effective immediately, members are required to complete their annual dental examination as part of the annual Reserve Component Physical Health Assessment, by turning in a completed Department of Defense Form 2813 for civilian dental examinations. If members fail to do so, their RCPHA should be considered incomplete and consideration given to not allow participation for pay or points until the RCPHA is complete.

Reservists may have the ADE completed by a civilian dentist two out of three years. Every third year, an Air Force dentist must complete the dental examination.

Members are encouraged to enroll in the TRICARE dental plan available to reservists for \$8.14 per month. Log on to the United Concordia Web site: www.ucci.com for details on coverage and how to enroll.

Tuskegee Airmen induction luncheon to be held

A Tuskegee Airmen Induction Ceremony Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 23 at 11:30 a.m. in the Barksdale AFB Officers Club. Dr. Roscoe Brown, an original Tuskegee Airman, will be the guest speaker.

Tickets will be available to purchase Jan. 12-21 for \$12. The 917th Wing Military Equal Opportunity Office challenges each unit in the Wing to purchase tickets to the event for at least two young airmen. Contact Capt. Candice Pipes, 2nd Mission Support Squadron, at (318) 456-2345 for more information.

Paper CLEP tests coming online

The College Level Examination Program will introduce 14 new paper tests in April. Subjects like social science, history, sociology, psychology, humanities, college algebra and mathematics will be reintroduced in paper form. Test material will be based on computer versions of CLEP exams being administered at national test centers located on college and university campuses. CLEP tests offer servicemembers a chance to earn up to 30 semester hours credit toward a bachelor's degree.

CLEP tests begin again at the Wing this month. Interested individuals may order exams through the Wing Education and Training Office. Contact Rebecca McCrary at (318) 456-9247 for more information.

Scholarships available for military children

The application period for unmarried children of active-duty, retired, Guard and Reserve members to apply for a \$1,500 academic scholarship to be given by the commissary is underway now until Feb. 18.

The goal is to award at least one scholarship at every commissary location where qualified applications are received. For scholarship program and application procedures, visit www.militaryscholar.org. Contact Elke Sprague, Barksdale AFB Commissary, at (318) 456-8778 for more information.



Get answers to your questions... all in one place

One-stop customer service for pay and personnel information is now available on the AFPC Web site: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cst> or by calling 1-800-616-3775.

Airmen now have access to the following support services with one call or one click:

- ◆ Air Force Contact Center for general military personnel inquiries, including discrimination and sexual harassment issues
- ◆ Air Reserve Personnel Center for Guard and Reserve personnel inquiries
- ◆ Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Cleveland Contact Center for military pay inquiries
- ◆ AFPC Technical Assistance Center for technical support for applications such as the Virtual Military Personnel Flight, assignment management system, AFPC Secure, PC-III
- ◆ AFPC Recruiting Service Center for civilian appropriated-fund job opportunities
- ◆ AFPC Benefits and Entitlements Service Team for civilian appropriated-fund benefits and entitlements

'Da Bomb

Weapons loaders from the 917th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron were recently rewarded for their outstanding effort in support of the global war on terrorism. The fabulous four claimed the title of 2002 Air Force Reserve Command and 10th Air Force Outstanding Weapons Load Crew of the Year. Pictured on right: Tech. Sgt. Robert Carter and Master Sgt. Johnnie Gilbert load Joint Direct Attack Munitions onto a B-52 aircraft. Bottom: Tech. Sgt. Ben Dorsey watches clearances as he prepares to lock a 750-pound bomb onto a bomb rack on a B-52. (Photos by Master Sgt. Greg Steele)

Outstanding Load Crew winners:

Master Sgt. Johnnie Gilbert

Tech. Sgt. Robert Carter

Tech. Sgt. Ben Dorsey

Tech. Sgt. David Rose



917th Wing Salutes

NEWCOMERS

93 BS

Staff Sgt. David Hubbard, Lindale, Texas

917 CF

Staff Sgt. Nathan Lloyd, Shreveport, La.

917 LRS

Staff Sgt. Mohammad Gittiban, Arlington, Texas

Senior Airman Crystal Nelson, Buna, Texas

Staff Sgt. Sabrina Parker, Elkins Park, Pa.

Senior Airman Sigmund Wilson, Shreveport, La.

917 MDS

Maj. Robert Connell, Mt. Pleasant, Texas

Senior Airman Jimmy Snow Jr., West Monroe, La.

917 MXS

Senior Airman William Decker, Tyler, Texas

Airman 1st Class Quincy Hall, Shreveport, La.

PROMOTIONS

To Captain:

Angela Bennett, 917 MDS

Jeffery Chatman, 917 MDS

Sharron Gooch, 917 MDS

Alfredo Maldonado, 307 RHS

RETIREMENTS

Lt. Col. Chris Culliton, 917 MDS

Tech. Sgt. Donny Brown, 307 RHS

Tech. Sgt. Misty Slider, 307 RHS

THANKS FOR GIVING

A big "Thank You" to all Wing members who gave to Airmans Attic, a base organization that helped needy families in the Barksdale community during this past holiday season.

OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

Members of the 917th Wing should be extremely proud of their many achievements and contributions resulting in this prestigious award!

-Maj. Gen. John Batbie, AFRC Vice Commander



Senior Airman Dena Dowden
917th Maintenance Squadron
Airman of the Quarter



Staff Sgt. Terry Tardugno
917th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
NCO of the Quarter

Reservists reap the benefits

Recent acts provide unlimited shopping, tax deduction

By Tech. Sgt. Ruben Delgado
Wing Public Affairs

Reservists, guardsmen, their dependents and members of the retired Reserve and Guard may now "shop 'til they drop" at the commissary. Unlimited use of the facility is only one of several provisions signed into law by President George W. Bush in the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act Nov. 24.

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping, to tell store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard/Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Commissary shoppers will begin to see banners saying, 'Welcome Guard and Reserve to full-time savings,'"

"It's a big deal for us. It will really help sales," said Ralph Buras, commissary director here at Barksdale. "The more money we make through surcharges, the better equipment we can buy and over time build new and better commissaries."

Buras said he welcomes reservists who, in the past, may have shopped elsewhere due to their limited access to the facility.

"It's a lot less hassle trying to get in and out," said Wing Reservist Staff Sgt. Valerie Hubbard. "We used the commissary yesterday and didn't have to show our commissary card. We will use the commissary more now that we have unlimited access."

Prior to the passing of this bill, reservists and guardsmen were limited to only 24 visits per year with the use of a commissary privilege card.

Also introduced in the bill was an across-the-board pay increase for military men and women averaging 4.15 percent. All service members will receive at least 3.7 percent. Certain mid-level noncommissioned and commissioned officers will receive targeted pay raises of up to 6.25 percent. Extra pay earned by

servicemembers who volunteer for hazardous duty will be extended through the next year. It also continues hostile-fire pay or imminent danger pay at the current level of \$225 per month. Also added was the reauthorization of bonus pay for those in specialized fields.

Reservists get tax relief

Reservists who travel more than 100 miles to attend drills or meetings no longer have to itemize to claim a tax deduction for overnight travel expenses.

This change comes as a result of the 2003 Military Family Tax Relief Act, signed into law by President George W. Bush Nov. 11. The "above-the-line" deduction for overnight travel is retroactive to Jan. 1.

"Reservists will be able to deduct reimbursed travel expenses such as lodging, 50 percent of meals and any transportation costs," said Lt. Col. Janet Fenton, Armed Forces Tax Council director.

"That sounds, great," said Tech. Sgt. Bianca Sellers-Brown, member of the 917th Maintenance Squadron commander's support staff. "I travel about 260 miles round trip to come to UTA each month. And even though I could join a unit closer to home, I don't mind traveling because this is a great unit," Sellers-Brown said. "But this deduction will definitely help with out-of-pocket expense reimbursements for me at tax time."

"The pay raise will certainly help our folks and the tax break for those who travel over 100 miles to the UTA is also welcome," said Col. Kevin Wolfe, 917th Mission Support Group commander.

"The new commissary policy will make it much easier for our folks to utilize that benefit, and it will save many administrative hours in preparing and distributing the cards," he said. "Most importantly, Congress and the president are sending a message to reservists and the nation about how important the reserve program is, and that we must continue to recognize reserve efforts in the nation's defense."

For more info...

Go to the 2003 Defense Authorization Act at the Department of Defense Web site: <http://www.dod.mil/releases/2003/nr20031124-0690.html>.

For details on the Military Tax Relief Act, go to <http://www.afrc.af.mil/news/afrcnews/03160.asp>.

Voices: How do you feel about unlimited commissary privileges given to the military in the 2003 Defense Authorization Act?



Tech. Sgt. Earl Roberson
307th RED HORSE

"I think unlimited commissary privileges are long overdue. We should enjoy the same privileges as active duty."



Airman Emily Harrington
917th Maintenance
Operations Squadron

"I'm glad I don't have to show my commissary card every time I shop now."



Tech. Sgt. Steve Craig
917th Wing

"It will be so convenient not having to keep up with a commissary card"

917th Wing Training Schedule

Jan. 10-11, 2003

Time	Event	Location
Saturday		
0630-0700	Sign-in	Assigned unit
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0700	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0700	Physical exam (flyers)	Base hospital (lobby)
0700-1400	Immunizations	Base hospital, 1st floor
0730	Detailed physical exam (non-flyers)	Base hospital (lobby)
0730	Routine physical exam	Base hospital, 2nd floor
0730-1000	Body fat measurement	Flight medicine
0730-1430	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800	Initial Chem Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800 & 1300	Chem Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0930 & 1030	Family Support briefing	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 144
1000	Training Managers mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123B
1000	Unit Deployment Managers mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1000	First sergeants' mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1300	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6825, 3rd floor
1300	Commanders Support Staff trng.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1400	Unit Advisory Council mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1400	MSG Top Three mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
Sunday		
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit
0730	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0730	Information Management Training	Bldg. 4238, STARBASE
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800	Chem Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0800-1000	Dental Class 3 profile reviews	Base dental clinic
0800-1100	Immunizations	Base hospital
0800-1200	Self-Aid Buddy Care Instructor Course	Base hospital, 1st floor
0800-1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0830	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2
0945	EO First Duty Station Part 1	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1000	UPAR training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 212
1000-1030	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor
1300	Chem Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
1300	EO First Duty Station Part 2	Bldg. 4714, 3rd floor
1300	Flightline drivers refresher	Bldg. 6825, 3rd floor
1400	Historical Representative mtg.	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 327
1400	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1400-1600	Airman & NCO of month/quarter photos	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 212
1500	717 AMXS Commander's Call	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1500	47 FS Commander's Call	47 FS auditorium

1550-1610 Sign-out 1550--CES, MSS, WG 1600-- MXG 1610--MXS

Know anyone who is looking for a recruiter?

Barksdale AFB, La.

Master Sgt. Joe Menna
Master Sgt. Don Copeland
1-800-241-4071

Monroe, La.

Master Sgt. Gary Johnson
318-323-1898

Shreveport, La.

Master Sgt. Ellen Shaheed
318-683-0331

Texarkana, Texas

903-223-7030

Tyler, Texas

Staff Sgt. Kim Wilhite
903-534-8618

SERVICES

Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, (318) 456-9205

Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. Newcomers in-processing
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. All customer service functions

Sunday

8 a.m. - 2 p.m. All customer service functions

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All services

NOTE: Customer Service functions include in/out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, vehicle decals, record reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, (318) 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week
(reservations required)

Lodging

For information on official or space "A" lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 229, (318) 456-9179

Friday - Sunday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Willis (985) 517-0955

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eubanks (479) 841-4641

Chaplain (Capt.) DeVaul (713) 502-1124

Red River Dining Hall (Bldg. 4631)

Breakfast 5:30 - 6:30 a.m. Lunch - 717 AMXS - 11:45, 917 AMXS - 10:30/11:30, CES - noon, MSS - 11:45, MXG, MOS - 11, MXS - 11:15, OPS - 11, SFS - 12:15, WG - 11:30

NOTE: You must show ID card,

newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

Family Readiness (Bldg. 4713)

Saturday & Sunday 8-11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue (main UTA), Bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Sat. & Sun., noon - 2 p.m.

Military Pay

Saturday and Sunday (main UTA) 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Gov. Travel Card Service

Bldg. 6803, Room 203, (318) 456-9546

Monday - Friday, Main UTA 6 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Initial military clothing issue

Bldg. 6825, Room 218, (318) 456-7177

Wednesday 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Saturday (Main UTA) 1-3 p.m.

Testing schedule

CDC/PME

Wed., 9 a.m., 1 p.m., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123B
Sun., (Main UTA) 9 a.m. ONLY, Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123B - Course 00005A/00012G
Sun., (Main UTA) 12:30 p.m., Bldg. 4314, Rm. 309
Sun., (Alt. UTA) 1 p.m., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123B

DANTES/CLEP

Thurs., 9 a.m., 1 p.m., Bldg. 6803, Rm. 152
Sun., (Main UTA) 12:30 p.m., Bldg. 4314, Rm. 309

AFOQT/AFCT

Sunday of UTA on a quarterly basis as scheduled
Call Wing Education and Training at 456-7496/8066 for times or scheduling requirements.

Gas Mask/Chem Gear Issue

Sat. (main UTA) 8-10 a.m., Bldg. 6811(Mask),
Bldg. 6822 (Chem Gear)

AFRC Band to perform concert free to public



By Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio
Wing Public Affairs

The Band of the Air Force Reserve is the oldest band assigned to the Air Force. They formed in 1941 and are still performing without a break in service. The band is comprised of active-duty musicians and is assigned the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command at Robins AFB, Ga.

The band will perform in the Shreveport/Bossier area from Feb. 18-21 a series of venues with the first featuring the Concert Band at the Shreveport Civic Theater on Feb. 18, 7 p.m. Reservists are encouraged to invite their employers, family and friends to the concert at the Civic Theater.

The Concert Band is considered the nucleus of versatile organization performing musical fares ranging from original band compositions and orchestral transcriptions to patriotic selections and marches, popular Broadway and show tunes.

To obtain tickets e-mail Jessica.daurizio@barksdale.af.mil or call (318) 456-9181. If you are sending an e-mail please indicate the number of tickets you need and the address to which you would like them mailed.

UTA Schedule

Main

Jan. 10-11
Feb. 7-8
March 6-7
April 3-4
May 1-2
June 5-6
July 10-11
Aug. 7-8
Sept. 11-12
Oct. 2-3
Nov. 6-7
Dec. 4-5

Alternate

Jan. 24-25
Feb. 21-22
March 20-21
April 17-18
May 15-16
June 12-13
July 17-18
Aug. 21-22
Sept. 18-19
Oct. 16-17
Nov. 20-21
No alternate

917th Wing
1000 Davis Ave. East
Barksdale AFB, LA 71110-2287

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CEDARBURG, WISCONSIN
PERMIT NO. 33